



Congratulations to Ciara Kirwan and George Dann on the occasion of their marriage on the 23rd of July, 2005.

Newsletter

Clonenagh Group of Parishes - September 2005

Annatrim, Borris-in-Ossory, Lacca, Mountrath, Roskelton, Seir Kieran.

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Rector's Notes-

What's happened to the summer this year? The apple tree in the garden here has only got half its leaves left and it's only August! Is this a sign of the winter coming already? Is this the norm? I find this quite alarming. I'm already in winter woollies and yet officially, it's still summer!

You may have noticed that I have not taken any summer vacation yet! I hope I haven't missed the season altogether! Well, I am taking time off this month from the 19th to the 26th inclusive. During that time, the Rev'd Olive Donohoe of Mountmellick will be on call for pastoral emergencies, and the services on Sunday the 25th will be taken by the Rev'd John Flynn and Charlie Wallace.

The Rev'd Olive Donohoe's telephone number is 0502 24143. Please only ring her in emergencies. Anything else should hold till I get back.

Service Times

Please note the change in times of Sunday services. Each week will be different. I have changed the times so that every church has a turn at being late or early or in the middle. This is to facilitate those people who have told me that they either have difficulty getting up early on Sunday, or they dislike

having to have their Sunday lunch 15 minutes later than usual! Until we get assistance, this is all we can do, as bilocation (being in two places at one time) is not one of my gifts. I know this will not please everyone, but then even God has problems doing that, so I am in good company!

Confirmation

It's that time of year when some people should start thinking about Confirmation.

What is confirmation? Confirmation is when we decide that the time has come when we are ready to confirm the ticket that our parents bought for us, when we were brought for baptism as infants. As infants, our parents decided that they wanted us to be brought up in the Christian Church. When we reach a certain stage in our development, we want to be part of that church in our own right.

When we reach that stage in life, then and only then, should we come forward for Confirmation. Confirmation is not an automatic right of passage. To be confirmed because our parents want us to, or our rector wants us to, or because a sister or brother was confirmed at the same age, or just because all our friends are being confirmed, is to treat Confirmation with dis-

September Sunday Services

4th September 15th Sunday after Trinity	11th September 16th Sunday after Trinity	18th September 17th Sunday after Trinity	25th September 18th Sunday after Trinity
Mountrath Morning Prayer 8:45am	Annatrim Morning Prayer 9:00am	Seir Kieran Morning Prayer 8:45am	Lacca Morning Prayer 10:15am
Borris-in-Ossory Morning Prayer 10:15am	Roskelton Eucharist 10:30am	Mountrath Eucharist 10:15am	Annatrim Eucharist 10:15am
Seir Kieran Harvest Eucharist 11:45am	Lacca Harvest Service 3:00pm	Borris-in-Ossory Harvest Eucharist 11:45am	Roskelton Morning Prayer 11:30am

Parish Diary - September

- 6th Tuesday.....Parent & Toddler Group
 - 9th Friday.....Junior & Senior Puppets
 - 9th Friday.....Ballyfin Parish Race Night, The Deadman's Inn (9:00pm)
 - 17th Saturday.....Puppet Conference, Limerick
 - 21st Wednesday..Closing date for October 2005 Newsletter items!**
 - 24th Saturday.....Kids Club & Kool Club
 - 26th Monday.....Mothers' Union Opening Service, St. Peter's Church (8:00pm)
 - October 3rd.....Parenting Course, Parochial Hall (8:00pm)
- Sunday School for Juniors & Seniors**, St. Peter's Church, Mountrath (during Sunday service, except United and Family services).

Items for inclusion in the newsletter need to be with the editor by the Wednesday (**21st September**) before the fourth Sunday of the month AT THE LATEST, so that the newsletter can be assembled, printed, and distributed in time for the fourth Sunday (**25th September**). Ideally, items should be submitted by E-Mail to- newsletter@clonenagh.com Otherwise to- Ivor Clegg, Cloncourse, Mountrath, Co. Laois. 0502-21277 or 087-2522162 This newsletter and many older editions can be downloaded directly from www.clonenagh.com.



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respect and pay lip service to promises that mean nothing.

There is no age at which one should be confirmed. I reiterate - the right age is when we ourselves decide that we want to be active members of the Christian Church. This stage can only come with maturity of mind and much thought and questioning. Therefore, I would like to hear from people from 13 or 14 up, who would like to be confirmed next year. It doesn't matter whether you are 14 or 28 or 56 or above.

It doesn't matter whether you are baptised or not! Baptism and confirmation are complimentary services that often go together for those people who are more mature.

No letters or phone calls from parents or guardians who feel it's time their children should be confirmed will be accepted, as that is not what confirmation is about. The letters must come from the confirmation candidates themselves.

Please send your letters to the rector at Coolrain House, Coolrain, Co. Laois.

The Leaving's over and the Results are out!

Our best wishes to all those who have recently got their Leaving Certificate results and are heading out into the big wide world of self amelioration and responsibility. To those who are going on to further education, we wish you absorbent minds, ease of learning and an ability to recall. To those who are going into the work place, we wish you collegiality with your colleagues and work satisfaction. To all of you, we wish you a wonderful life! May God bless you and keep you close and may He show you His love in all those whose paths cross yours.

Harvest

It's Harvest time again and the services this year are as follows:
September 4th- Seir Kieran, 11:45am
September 11th- Lacca, 3:00pm
September 18th- Borris-in-Ossory, 11:45am
October 2nd- Mountrath, 8:00pm
October 9th- Annatrim, 11.30am
Roskelton, 8:00pm

I'm sure we all look forward to seeing the churches decorated, by both adults and children. Happy Harvest time!

~Rev'd Stella



MOTHERS UNION & YOUNG WIVES

A service of Holy Communion in St Peter's Church, Mountrath on Monday 26th September at 8:00pm. This will be followed by a meeting in the Parochial Hall when Linda Wharton will give an introduction to the Parenting course due to start in early October. All are as always welcome to attend. Mrs. Mabel Peavoy, Mrs. Emily Jackson, and Mrs. Margaret McKay are in charge of the supper for the night.

Ballyfin Parish are holding a **Race Night** in the Deadman's Inn on Friday 9th September, at 9:00pm. Everybody welcome.

Excerpts from Marie Kerr's funeral address, 28th July 2005:

"Today we gather here in Ballyfin Church at this Funeral Service to give thanks for the life of Marion Frances Kerr.

It's not every funeral where the preacher can say: 'this was a faithful servant of God' but undoubtedly for Marie her faith was at the very core of her being. She exercised many different ministries in her lifetime... as a leader of worship, a teacher, a musician, a neighbour, an active member of her congregation, her Diocese, and as a member of the General Synod.

Born into a dairy farming family in Ross, Ballyfin, Marie trained as a teacher and taught in schools in Lugacurren and Carnalway before becoming Principal of Mountrath in 1959 when Archdeacon Desmond Patton was Rector. She continued there until her retirement in 1992.

It was with the encouragement of Archdeacon Hugh Gray and Canon Philip Day that Marie took on the role of Parish Reader. In this role Marie led worship in Church, exercising a ministry which is vital in many Parishes today.

Hi everyone, the summer hols are nearly over. I can't believe it's gone so fast!!!! We are just getting our plans together for the coming year.

Parent and toddlers are back on the 6th September. Christine has volunteered to take over the art side of things for the year.

Puppets – junior and senior will be back on the 9th September. New puppeteers are welcome to join.

There is a **puppet conference** on in Limerick on the 17th of September everyone is welcome to attend; contact Linda to book in.

As a musician Marie played the Church organ, and was very involved with a musical society in Mountrath.

Elected to Diocesan Council and Synod, Marie was never afraid to make a point no matter how unpopular it might be.

As secretary of the Laois Orphan Society, Marie ensured that any child in need received whatever the society could give them.

Marie was strong willed, determined, and never afraid to speak her mind.

Marie fought her illness with great determination, making plans for the future right to the end of her life. I don't think people in her position realise how inspiring they can be to those of us in the full of our health.

And so we gather together in this community of faith, to give thanks to God for such a vibrant life, to be with the Kerr family and all Marie's friends and neighbours, to pray for the bereaved, and to give thanks to God for the gift of the resurrection."

~Canon Patrick Harvey

Thanks to the **Puppet Team** who volunteered of their services for leading on the Castlecomer holiday club and the Athy holiday club during August.

Kids Club and Kool Club will be back on the 24th September

Congrats to all the **Leaving Cert** students who received their results during the month.

We need **adult leaders** for the different youth groups so if you feel you would good at leading, please come and see how you get on.

~Linda